

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 NEA-10 DRC-01 /161 W

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R 200620Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2039

INFO CINCPAC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

JCS WASHDC

DOD/ISA WASHDC

CONSEVENTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, AS, US

SUBJ: JOINT U.S./AUSTRALIAN EXERCISE, KANGAROO I

REF: A) STATE 222318 B) CANBERRA 5094

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF A AND WILL EMPHASIZE TO ADOD AND RAN IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO SEATO EXERCISES. SINCE DISPATCH OF REF B, HOWEVER, EMBOFFS HAVE LEARNED THAT, IN PLANNING EXERCISE SCHEDULE FOR FY 75, RAN HAS SLIPPED SEATO EXERCISE FROM SECOND TO LAST PLACE IN LISTING OF SIX PROBABLE EXERCISES. AT THE SAME TIME RAN BUDGET FOR FY 1974 EXERCISES (AND POSSIBLY FOR FY75) HAS BEEN CUT BY ABOUT 20 PERCENT. BECAUSE OF THESE TWO FACTORS, AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN SEATO EXERCISE IN FY 75 MAY BE JEOPARDIZED.

2. FY 74 RAN EXERCISE FUNDS HAVE NOW EITHER BEEN USED (FOUR EXERCISES HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED)
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OR EARMARKED FOR KANGAROO I AND BILATERAL EXERCISE

WITH INDONESIA EARLY IN CALENDAR 74. THERE ARE NO APPARENT PLANS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MONEY IN FY 74 RAN EXERCISE BUDGET. POSSIBILITY OF ADDING SEATO EXERCISE IN FY 74 THEREFORE SEEMS REMOTE. AS POINT OF SOME INTEREST, RAN CONSIDERS PX 49 SEATO EXERCISE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR FY 74 TO HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND NOT POSTPONED AS INDICATED REF A.

3. IN CONNECTION WITH USG ACCEPTANCE OF AUSTRALIAN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN KANGAROO I, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER PROPOSING TO AUSTRALIANS THAT THAI AND PHILIPPINE REPS BE INVITED TO OBSERVE EXERCISE. SUCH INVITATION TO REGIONAL MEMBERS OF SEATO WOULD AVOID IMPLICATION THAT U.S., AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (AND PROBABLY THE U.K.) ARE EXERCISING TO EXCLUSION OF OTHER SEATO MEMBERS. INVITATION COULD ALSO LAY GROUND WORK FOR LATER AUSTRALIAN CONSIDERATION OF PARTICIPATION IN SEATO EXERCISE IN FY 75.

4. ASSUMPTION PARA 6 REF A IS CORRECT.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY PLANS, KANGAROO 1
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER06324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731123/aaaaaqxg.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 222318 B) CANBERRA 5094
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT U.S./AUSTRALIAN EXERCISE, KANGAROO I
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, AS, US, SEATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005